

Opportunities with

SHS gains a new program: Jobs for America's Graduates



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The new school year brings new possibilities, new friends, new classes, and even new programs. In Scottbluff High School, we have a new program called Jobs of American Graduates. Megan Tofflemire is the new JAG teacher.

"I am coming out of three years of social work with the state of Nebraska, and then I spent a year doing parent education, where I was teaching first-time parents with children zero to three years old. And I have always had a passion to help youth learn what they need to achieve their goals," Tofflemire explains.

Some people might wonder about the JAG program's main focus.

"It uses the project-based curriculum to empower students to succeed in high school and beyond, so whether that is attending two to four years of school after high school, going to trade school, or going straight into the workforce, it just equips them with the skills they need to be successful after high school," Tofflemire says.

Even though it is new to the high school, JAG started in 2018-2019 in Columbus High School, Fremont High School, and the Umonhon Nations High School in grades 9-12th.

"It is state-wide. In 2019, it

came to Nebraska, in multiple schools. It can be at the middle school level to the high school level. We are the region 6 in Nebraska, which means that we are with Kimball, Gering, Hemingford, Alliance, Banner County, and Chase County all have the program as well. It is on the rise, expanding state-wide and nation-wide. It is in over 50% of the United States," Tofflemire says.

This program is meant to benefit students. According to the JAG information site, the graduation rate of the JAG Nebraska class of 2022 was 99%, and some reached 90%-100%. 86% of JAG graduates are employed in full or part-time positions or are working while attending vocational training, community colleges or universities. Graduates will earn higher earnings than non-graduates 20% of the time, and they are 15% more likely to own homes, and 50% less likely to be at risk for poverty.

JAG students master between 37 to 87 core competencies identified by businesses and industry as essential to build relationships with employers and work collaboratively. It is also open to all students from varying levels of achievement.

"We have the same goal for every student. Regardless of any challenges or difficulties that you face, our goal doesn't change. We would utilize the same curriculum, but give support to help them get from point A to point B, reach success, and plan for the steps to get there."

With new programs, there are new hopes and wishes.

"I hope that we can connect Scottbluff Public Schools with our community and schools beyond to learn about opportunities within the community, but also state-wide, and consider that there is more to life," Tofflemire says.

They can achieve whatever they are passionate about by

figuring out what that is and finding more opportunities.

They don't just stop with a curriculum. The JAG program has over 65,000 job openings, from working at Walmart to doctor-level care and even child care. Students should try to take and see what JAG is all about because they never know what new opportunities come their way.



Fun Facts about JAG

- This is Tofflemire's first year at SHS, but JAG Nebraska started in 2019. Job as a JAG Career Specialist in June of 2025.
- JAG Nebraska is supported by United Way of the Midlands and State Agencies in

collaboration with 61 participating school districts.

- Megan has 8 regional co-workers through JAG, a JAG Program Manager, and a JAG Mentor in addition to my coworkers, administrators, and mentor at SBPS.
- SBPS is a part of Region 6 for JAG Nebraska along with Kimball, Gering, Alliance, Hemingford, Chase County, and Banner County.
- 1.7 million youth nationwide are a part of JAG.
- 84% of JAG students secure full-time employment after high school.
- More than 19,000 employers partner with JAG to hire JAG students.

Information from Ms. Tofflemire & JAG Website. Photo from SBPS Website